

Former student is found guilty of September rape

A former University student was found guilty of rape by a Centre County court jury Saturday after three hours of deliberation.

Todd S. Hodne, 19, of Wantagh, N.Y., was found guilty of one count of rape, one count of involuntary deviant sexual intercourse and one count of burglary.

State College police arrested Hodne in October for allegedly raping a female student in her College Heights basement apartment in September.

The victim testified that at about 10 p.m. on Sept. 13 she had gone to the grocery store, leaving her door unlocked. When she had entered her bedroom around midnight, the victim said she was grabbed from behind at knife point.

Hodne said that he was innocent and that he had gone to a fraternity party the night of the rape.

During the three-day trial, the defendant had testified that he was charged in a burglary incident this summer at a State College record



Todd Hodne

store. Although Hodne said he did not lose his athletic scholarship, as a result of the incident, he was suspended from the football team for a year.

Hodne has since been suspended from the University and has had his scholarship revoked.

Local environmental programs tentatively set

By DIANE ENSMINGER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Eco-Action's plans for Spring Term have not been finalized yet, but tentative plans include follow-up lectures on nuclear energy, Gentle Thursday recycling, Sun Day workshops, and more action on pollution problems in Spring Creek.

Eco-Action plans to get involved in Gentle Thursday on April 26 by recycling the trash the gentle people generate. They will also have their usual every-other-Saturday recycling at Parking Lot 83 North (near the flower gardens). Glass, aluminum, tin and newspapers are recycled.

Another day to mark on the calendar is May 4, which is Sun Day. The place has not been decided yet, but Central Parklet and blocking off McAllister Street are two possibilities that have been discussed, said Jim Perkins, an Eco-Action member.

Displays of solar equipment and low-energy technology will be featured, Perkins said. There will also be workshops on solar hot water heaters and solar greenhouses. On May 5, tours of a half-dozen solar houses in the area are planned.

Eco-Action also plans to discuss another alternate energy source — nuclear energy — in a series of lectures. No date has been set for the lectures.

Other events include a tentatively scheduled benefit concert by Haldance for Greenpeace. Greenpeace started out as a "save the whales" organization, but is now concerned with the protection of all wildlife.

Another subject on the agenda is co-sponsoring, with Colloquy, the group Voices from the Earth. This group of American Indians lectures all over the country on environmental concerns.

Alternate environmental education will be the topic of a lecture and slide show presentation to be given by

Kris Otley, Eco-Action vice-president. Otley's presentation will be about the Audubon Expedition Institute, which takes an "Outward Bound" type of approach to environmental education. The date has not been decided.

Eco-Action will continue to try to prevent Nease Chemicals from polluting Spring Creek with kepone and mirex. The chemicals were used as insecticides but both have been banned as suspected cancer-causing agents.

The problem, said Dennis McHugh of Eco-Action, is that kepone and mirex wastes are stored in concrete lagoons on Nease property. The chemicals leach out of the lagoons and contaminate Spring Creek. Nease has been ordered by the Department of Environmental Resources to remove the lagoons, but has done nothing and the chemicals continue to leach, McHugh said.

Ferguson mall petition hearing to precede decision

A petition filed by Ferguson Township residents opposed to the proposed shopping mall there will be the subject of a hearing Tuesday.

A temporary injunction ordering Ferguson Township Supervisors not to decide on Oxford Development Company's rezoning request without considering the petition was issued on Feb. 28 by Centre County Common Pleas

Judge Richard M. Sharp. The injunction was issued at the request of the residents only hours before a township supervisors meeting.

The supervisors had assembled all the planning commission reports and other items required by law and might have made their decision at the Feb. 28 meeting without ever hearing the resident's petition, Park Hills

Homeowners Association President Chester Gnatt said.

Township Solicitor Ronald M. Lucas said Judge Sharp found no bad faith on the part of the supervisors. Sharp agreed with the supervisors in that "initiative" type petition procedures (which can enact legislation) under Ferguson Township's home rule charter are irrelevant to zoning ordinances.

Lucas said the supervisors would not have made the rezoning decision before Tuesday's petition hearing.

Judge Sharp concluded that petitioners "have a right to a public hearing, also that the subject of their petition be brought before the Board of Supervisors by action within three months of its filing.

—by Fred Zahradnik

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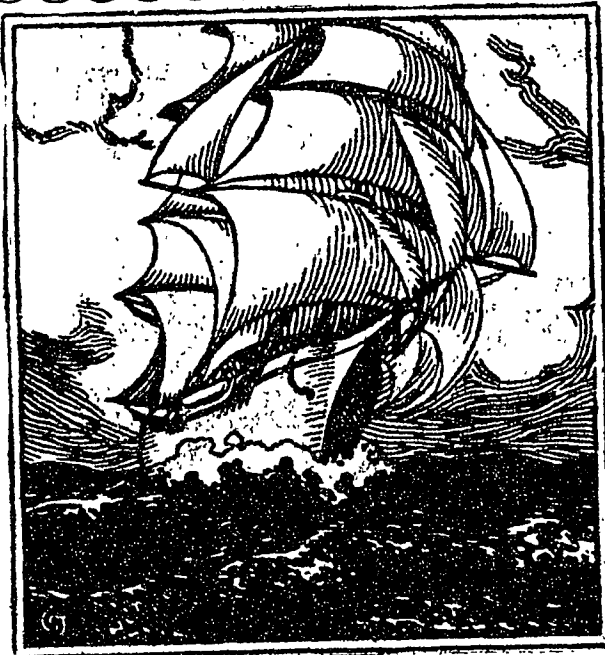
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